



## **Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges**

Meeting Date: **June 11, 2026**

Agenda Item: **2.11**

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION:**

Committee: **Academic & Personnel Committee**

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Action Item: **Elimination of the MEd SPED EC - CSC**

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The Special Education – Early Childhood Special Education (Birth–Kindergarten) M.Ed. program includes a significant number of dual-listed courses, which limits its accessibility for CSC Education graduates who hold a Field Endorsement in Special Education. Because these students have already completed much of the overlapping coursework, the program does not provide sufficient unique credit hours to support meaningful graduate-level progression. Additionally, portions of the curriculum no longer align with the current needs of special education early childhood professionals. At present, only three students remain enrolled in the program.

The System Office recommends approval of the elimination of the Special Education – Early Childhood Special Education M.Ed. at Chadron State College

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Proposal to Eliminate MEd SPED EC

# Chadron State College

## Proposal to Eliminate Masters of Education – Curriculum and Instruction – Special Education – Early Childhood Special Education (Birth – Kindergarten)

### 1. Descriptive Information Concerning Program – Evidence of Need and Demand

The Special Education – Early Childhood Special Education (Birth–Kindergarten) M.Ed. program includes a significant number of dual-listed courses, which limits its accessibility for CSC Education graduates who hold a Field Endorsement in Special Education. Because these students have already completed much of the overlapping coursework, the program does not provide sufficient unique credit hours to support meaningful graduate-level progression. As a result of this curricular structure, the department has historically had to turn away otherwise qualified students.

Additionally, the program’s development and oversight were heavily dependent on the expertise of a former faculty member, and portions of the curriculum no longer align with the current needs of special education early childhood professionals. At present, only three students remain enrolled in the program.

### 2. Procedure to Teach Out the Program

Two of the three students currently enrolled in the program will graduate in May 2026. The third student will continue until they have completed all requirements of the program. The student will be able to achieve completion of requirements through a combination of course substitutions and independent studies for courses that are no longer available within the program.

### 3. Impact on Faculty Resources

There is no impact on faculty resources. Courses previously offered within this degree are no longer being offered and therefore have eliminated a need for faculty overloads within the FCS department.

### 4. Impact on Physical Resources

There is no impact on physical resources.

### 5. Impact on Instructional Equipment and Informational Resources

There is no impact on instructional equipment and informational resources.

### 6. Consistency with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education

The proposal to eliminate the MEd in Early Childhood Special Education (B-K) demonstrates that Chadron State College is proactively addressing CCPE requirements by reviewing and discontinuing programs that no longer meet student demand. According to the 2024–2025 QAR report, the program produced only one graduate in 2025. Additionally, due to duplicative content in dual-listed courses for students pursuing an undergraduate Special Education endorsement, the degree no longer provides distinct value to CSC graduates pursuing a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction in this subject area. Sustaining the program would require recruiting non-CSC alumni, further limiting its viability. Discontinuing this program allows CSC to redirect faculty and institutional resources toward initiatives that better align with statewide workforce needs, while demonstrating responsible stewardship and a commitment to programmatic return on investment.